

EDITORIALS

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Race prejudice must go. The Fatherhood of God and the Brotherhood of Man must prevail. These are the only principles which will stand the acid test of time.

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MUNICIPAL BEGGARS

That this nation has been indulging in the greatest peace-time spending spree in the history of the world, is common knowledge. We hold the world's record for public debt.

Realistic citizens and editors have for several years been pointing out the dangers of a spendthrift national policy. They have shown that a curb on public spending must emanate from the people. As long as a majority of our people think they are getting something from the government for nothing when they get their nose in the public tax trough, there is little hope for the financial future of the nation.

That public sentiment is growing against financial handouts from the government, is slowly becoming evident. The people begin to realize that they and not the politicians, foot the tax bills. A number of communities have taken pride in refusing to go on a municipal pauper list and advertise themselves as municipal beggars.

The day is coming when self-respecting communities will be ashamed to accept federal funds furnished by all the people to construct purely local enterprises for the benefit of a privileged few. Such cities will be objects of charity just as truly as the unfortunates who are cared for by the government in public institutions.

As evidence that pride in municipal financial care has been growing, an editorial in the Bucyrus Telegraph-Forum of Bucyrus, Ohio, points out in no uncertain terms that Bucyrus citizens should build a proposed swimming pool in the old American way, from their own financial resources, instead of asking the federal government to make them a donation to build such a project. In concluding the editorial, Editor Peters says:

For six years it has been declared in this and probably every other American community, that 'we might as well get ours; if we don't some other community will.'... That is why we have today a \$40,000,000,000 indebtedness against our unborn generations. The limit has been reached. It is time for communities to take hold of themselves and begin plugging for improvements as communities plugged for improvements for 150 years. Not so many years ago Bucyrus built a new high school building. Before that the city built a number of grade school buildings. The government didn't help build them. We built them ourselves and we paid for them. Why can't Bucyrus return to that era of independence of community spirit, get a swimming pool and pay for it without kissing the feet of a gang of politicians? What was done for 150 yrs. can be done now if we have not sacrificed our last speck of resourcefulness and independence.

Editor Peters puts the issue plainly. Are our towns and cities going to continue on the municipal pauper list or are they going to again take pride

in being self-supporting, independent and solvent political subdivisions?

WHY INVESTMENT LAGS

Any number of factors are blamed for the present dearth of new investment. Banks, for instance, come in for criticism. But, in the view of experts, blaming banks is a poor excuse.

Some time ago a banker, in replying to a query concerning the reluctance to invest, made these pertinent observations: "Despite the fact that many business men are willing to try anything with other people's money the fact remains that the majority of businesses, large and small, will not engage additional capital unless prospects are favorable. Sound situations are not now seeking new capital, so investment opportunity is choked at the source. A discussion of reasons would become something of a political treatise."

That goes straight to the heart of the problem. For seven years the rabble-rousing politicians have attacked, frightened, discouraged and burdened capital. They have exploited the successful in order to subsidize the failure. They have apparently regarded the ability to create, to save and to make money as something of a crime. They have deliberately adopted a tax policy which takes the profit out of speculative undertakings (and anything which is new is usually speculative) in case they succeed, while leaving the investor to take all the loss if they fail. And now they are crying because there isn't more productive, job-making investment!

It would be more logical to wonder why there is even as much investment and employment as there is. You can't beat business over the head continually, without forcing it to draw in and retrench. You can't batter the investor, large or small, 'from pillar to post' and expect him to spend savings that would produce good times and make jobs for the unemployed. The dearth of investment is the inevitable result of a flood of suicidal laws and regulations that could do nothing but discourage investments and destroy business. What a laugh to watch the wiseacres hunt theoretical excuses for present conditions, when the real reasons are staring them in the face on all sides.

LABOR AND THE LAW

The action of the House in approving a resolution to investigate the National Labor Relations Board deserves commendation—from worker as well as employer. For, rightly or wrongly, this Board, and the Act creating it, has probably done more to damage the interests of legitimate organized labor than any law ever put on the statute books.

The Labor Relations Act was, according to its sponsors designated to end labor strife. In practice, it has fomented it, and been the direct cause of the bitter warfare between the CIO and AF of L. It was supposedly designated to put feelings between management and employes on a fair and equitable basis. Instead it has deprived the employer of vital rights and placed almost unlimited authority over industrial policies, in the hands of a politically appointed group. It was supposedly going to call a halt to labor racketeering. Instead, it has encouraged it, and gone a long way toward placing the workingman at the none too tender mercies of professional labor leaders.

That three are good things in the Act no one will deny. These things can and should be retained and every protection should be given the worker against the occasional unscrupulous, sweat-ship-minded employer. But this doesn't mean that the lazy and incompetent worker is to be given a life

lease on his job—that the workers' rights supersede the rights of everyone else—or that one union should be favored by the law at the expense of another. The welfare of the honest workingman can never be served by any law that is opposed to the public interest and to decent and fair industrial relations.

It is unfortunate that Congress has so long delayed needed revision of the Act. The proposed House investigation should lay the groundwork for making necessary and fair changes next session.

A LESSON WELL LEARNED

More and more of the products of the farm pass into the channels of consumption through cooperative marketing organizations. More and more does the farmer depend on voluntary cooperation with his fellows as a solution to his economic problems.

That speaks well for the farmer's good sense—he's seen a score or so of so-called government "farm relief" schemes collapse with a dull thud and he's found out from harsh experience that real and permanent "farm relief" must largely come from within the ranks of agriculture, rather than from without. And the cooperative marketing movement is going ahead accordingly.

RAILROADS BREAKING RECORDS

Although the railroads of the United States have been steadily increasing train speeds in a phenomenal manner, they established their best general safety record in fifty years in 1938, according to figures just announced by the Association of American Railroads.

The number of train accidents, as compared with the number of miles run by trains, was the lowest on record in 1938—one-third less than in 1937 and two-thirds less than in 1929.

The accident record for employes on duty, all causes, was the lowest in 50 years, totaling 479 in 1938, compared with 666 in 1937 and 1,348 in 1929. The number of such fatalities was a reduction of 28.1 per cent compared with 1937 and 64.5 per cent compared with 1929. Compared with the number of man-hour, the reductions were 13.5 per cent and 31.6 per cent, respectively. Non-fatal injuries to employes were reduced proportionately for same periods, in numbers and frequency.

Passenger fatalities from train accidents totaled 52 in 1938 compared with 3 in 1937. Of the total 40 resulted from one accident for which a cloud-burst was responsible; eight passengers were killed in a collision resulting from man failure; three were fatally injured in train-truck highway grade crossing collision and one from a collision of two passenger trains.

Fewer persons lost their lives or were injured in accidents at highway-railroad grade crossings in 1938 than in any year since 1915—with the exception of one year, 1933. This means there was a reduction of 21.1 per cent in the number of casualties at grade crossings in 1938, compared with 1937.

Taking casualties for all classes—passengers, employes persons at highway-railroad grade crossings, and trespassers—the number of fatalities in 1938 was reduced by 15.9 per cent and number of non-fatal injuries by 25.7 per cent compared with 1937. Compared with 1929, the reductions were, respectively, 30.7 per cent and 64.6 per cent.

TAKE YOUR CHOICE

The policy of the federal government toward the utility industry has

taken a strange form in recent months. Periodically, high officials appear with reassuring pledges of cooperation, and requests that this vital industry make plans for expansion and betterment, to the end that billions of private productive dollars be spent and that thousands of unemployed be given real jobs. Then, a day or a week or a month later, some other officials or bureaus come out with acts or statements which, in effect give the industry a hard kick in the pants.

Not so long ago, for example, Secretary Hopkins made a strong speech advocating governmental fairness toward the utilities. And the very next day a congressional committee approved a \$17,000,000 appropriation for another federal dam in the Southeast, situated in an area which has never lacked low-cost power provided by heavily taxed private companies. This sort of thing has happened time and again. It's reached the point where responsible utility leaders are actually worried when government spokesmen say a kind word concerning the industry—for fear that it will be immediately followed by another anti-utility blast from political extremist.

The utility industry has gone on record with what it can and will do, given reasonable assurances that it will be allowed to stay in business and earn a fair return. It will continue to carry one of the greatest tax loads of any industry. It will pay a modest profit to the millions of owners of its securities most of whom are persons of small or moderate means. It will throw its tremendous weight behind real recovery, paid for with private dollars, and furnishing private jobs and opportunities.

We can have our choice between this kind of progress—or socialistic encroachments which frighten all industry, send the relief rolls soaring and drive savings into hiding.

GOING PLACES

They're getting together "down on the farm."

The get-together in question involves the fast-growing agricultural marketing cooperative movement—the most significant in the farm history of our time.

Already the movement has improved prices in many instances, broadened and stabilized markets, dealt with all manner of problems affecting agriculture, and served the consumer by helping assure him of a constant supply of first-class farm products at a fair price.

Those who have watched the movement have been little short of amazed by its achievements in a few brief years. And it is going places faster all the time.

MAKING IT LAST

There is an old saying to the effect that "Man's problem is not how to make money first, but how to make money last."

You can see many a tragic example of that in your own community, in men who once earned good salaries or owned profitable businesses—yet, in their declining years, found themselves penniless and forced to live on the bounty of relatives, friends or organized charity.

That's were such systematic savings plans as those offered by life insurance, provide an invaluable public service. They take and hold today's easily-earned dollars and return them to you or your dependents at a time when dollars are needed most, and are hardest to get. It's no fun to pay premiums—but it's a lot less fun to reach old age without income.